

‘They have taken land and displaced people from their traditional lands. The communities can’t get to the garden parcels where they are farming to plant their seeds. When settlers are encountering the indigenous people on the way to their parcels, there are assassinations, they are kidnapping them, and sexually abusing women.’

— DELVIN ROSALIO

ment is going to set up a concrete proposal to stop the conflict and comply with their responsibilities.”

A BREAK IN EUGENE

Bilbano also says she hopes indigenous cultural groups in the U.S. will mobilize in support of their cause, and she wants to spread awareness to Americans about the conflict.

Right now, Rosalio and Bilbano are staying in Eugene, a trip their sponsors — ELAW and the Ireland-based Front Line Defenders — describe as one of “rest and respite.” One reason the two indigenous activists are in Eugene is to “provide a physical and psychological break for defenders from the extreme stress of the dangerous work they do,” according to an email from Erin Kilbride, a media coordinator with Front Line Defenders, a group founded to help human rights defenders who are at risk.

But soon Rosalio and Bilbano will return to their colleagues. Rosalio says their organization previously had 18 members, but has since reduced to seven. He says members left the group out of fear from the constant threats they have received during the conflict.

Rosalio points to an anonymous Facebook post, which conveys the reality of his work back home. The post shows photos of Rosalio and other members of his organization, describing him and his colleagues as “spreading garbage” and appears to express outrage over media organizations’ quoting them over the issue.

“I recommend that you return to your roots, which is the dump. Because that is the place where you come from,” it says. The user’s profile picture bears the logo of the country’s ruling party, the Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional. ■

Visit the Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide homepage at elaw.org to learn about Centro por la Justicia y Derechos Humanos de la Costa Atlántica de Nicaragua’s work at cejudhcan.org. ELAW’s executive director is the son of EW owner Anita Johnson.

**TIM
Laue
FOR
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COUNTY COMMISSIONER**

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- **EXPERIENCE:** CASA advocate; Public Safety Coordinating Council; Civilian Review Board; Sustainability, Police and Human Services Commissions; Eugene City Council; Neighborhood leader and community volunteer.

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Paid for and Authorized by Tim Laue for Commissioner, Lee Gire, Treasurer

JUANA BILBANO



PHOTO BY TODD COOPER

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